

UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND (USEUCOM) MISSIONS AND FUNCTIONS

Support and advance U.S. interest and policies throughout the assigned area of responsibility; provide combat ready land, maritime, and air forces to Allied Command Europe or U.S. unified commands; and conduct operations unilaterally or in concert with coalition partners.

U.S. Commitment to NATO:

USEUCOM's primary mission in support of NATO is to provide combat-ready forces to support U.S. commitments to the NATO alliance.

Readiness of U.S. Forces:

Extensive training is conducted to ensure combat readiness.

Crisis Management:

Although planning for NATO conflict is first priority at USEUCOM, consideration is also given to unilateral and multilateral contingency planning. This includes providing forces to other unified commands, and ranges from humanitarian relief to support of friendly governments with supplies.

Intelligence Activities:

The headquarters is responsible for theater-wide coordination of intelligence activities. Once collected and analyzed, information is passed to decision makers. The command maintains an accurate picture of the area of responsibility and provide responsive support to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the military services and Allied Command Europe.

Security Assistance:

The purpose of security assistance is to help friendly nations maintain their control, resist aggression, and contribute to collective security. It includes foreign military sales, credits and grant aid for training programs, equipment and other assistance to allied and friendly countries in USEUCOM's area of responsibility. The U.S. Commander in Chief, Europe, directs and supervises all security assistance actions, commands the Military Assistance Advisory Groups and Offices of Defense Cooperation in his area of responsibility, correlates security assistance plans and programs with U.S. military plans and submits such plans and proposals to the Secretary of Defense.

Non-Combatant Evacuation: This headquarters plans for and executes as appropriate, the protection and evacuation of U.S. non-combatants in the USEUCOM area of responsibility.

Humanitarian Relief:

When requested, USEUCOM provides humanitarian relief in the event of natural disasters or crises.

USEUCOM STAFF

This joint staff and its direct reporting units consists of some 1200 servicemen and women: about 495 Army, 475 Air Force, 200 Navy and 38 Marines in 27 countries. About 365 U.S. civilians are also on the staff.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

The command center at Patch Barracks is the nucleus of the USEUCOM command and control system. It links the headquarters with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, other unified and specified commands, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, and component headquarters.

The command center is the focal point where the commander in chief or his deputy monitors and maintains contact with USEUCOM forces. Employment of strategic forces assigned to the command and committed to U.S. and NATO missions, is coordinated and directed from the command center.

HISTORY

The origin of USEUCOM dates back to the earliest days of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), when the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) created HQ USEUCOM on 1 August 1952 to facilitate its treaty obligations. One of America's promises to NATO was to provide U.S. combat forces, under the operational control of the NATO commander in wartime, for the defense of Europe.

Reasons of both economy and efficiency prompted the creation of the senior U.S. military headquarters in Europe to serve, then as now, as the focal point for controlling, coordinating and facilitating American support to NATO. Similar reasoning dictated that the same American general would serve as both the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) of NATO forces and the U.S. Commander in Chief Europe (USCINCEUR) of American forces in Europe. Besides centralizing command responsibility, the new command arrangement gave the overall American commander full control of the administrative and logistic support forces in Europe.

Because of the magnitude of his dual assignment, coupled with the necessity of spending most of his time at this NATO Headquarters, SHAPE, USCINCEUR delegated broad authority for both the direction and control of the USEUCOM staff to his Deputy. Succeeding USCINCEUR's have continued this practice to the present day.

Temporarily housed in the I.G. Farben Building in Frankfurt, Germany, HQ USEUCOM moved in 1954 to permanent quarters at Camp des Loges in the forest of St. Germaine-en-Lay, France. Here less than an hours drive from SACEUR's NATO Headquarters in Paris, it remained until March 1966, when General de Gaulle asked all foreign military headquarters to leave French soil.

To comply with this request the SACEUR/USCINCEUR moved with SHAPE to a location near Mons, Belgium. The Deputy USCINCEUR moved with HQ USEUCOM to Patch Barracks and commenced operations there at midnight on 14 March 1967.